AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A screw or a tapping screw made of steel with ~~characterized in having~~ an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size and a nitride layer in a surface part, wherein the nitride layer in the surface part has a 100 μm or less thickness, hardness of the nitride layer of the surface part is 560 or more in Vickers hardness, ferrite in the vicinity of the nitride layer has a 1 μm or less average grain size, ferrite of a core part has a 3 μm or less, and hardness of the core part is 199-450 in Vickers hardness~~part~~.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The production method for a screw or a tapping screw according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 500°C to 550°C.

Claims 7-20 (Canceled)